

A new name for *Microterys fuscipennis* Compere, 1928 (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) with notes on the species and on related forms

by

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Microterys haroldi nom. nov. is proposed to replace the name *Microterys fuscipennis* Compere, preoccupied by *Microterys fuscipennis* (Dalman). Characters are given and illustrated to distinguish *M. haroldi* from species of *Paraphaenodiscus* Girault.

The palaearctic species *Encyrtus fuscipennis* was described from Sweden by Dalman (1820) and included by Thomson (1876) in his genus *Microterys*. Ashmead (1900) apparently misquoted it as *M. fuscipennis* (Dalman) and Mercet (1921) transferred it to his new genus *Subprionomitus*.

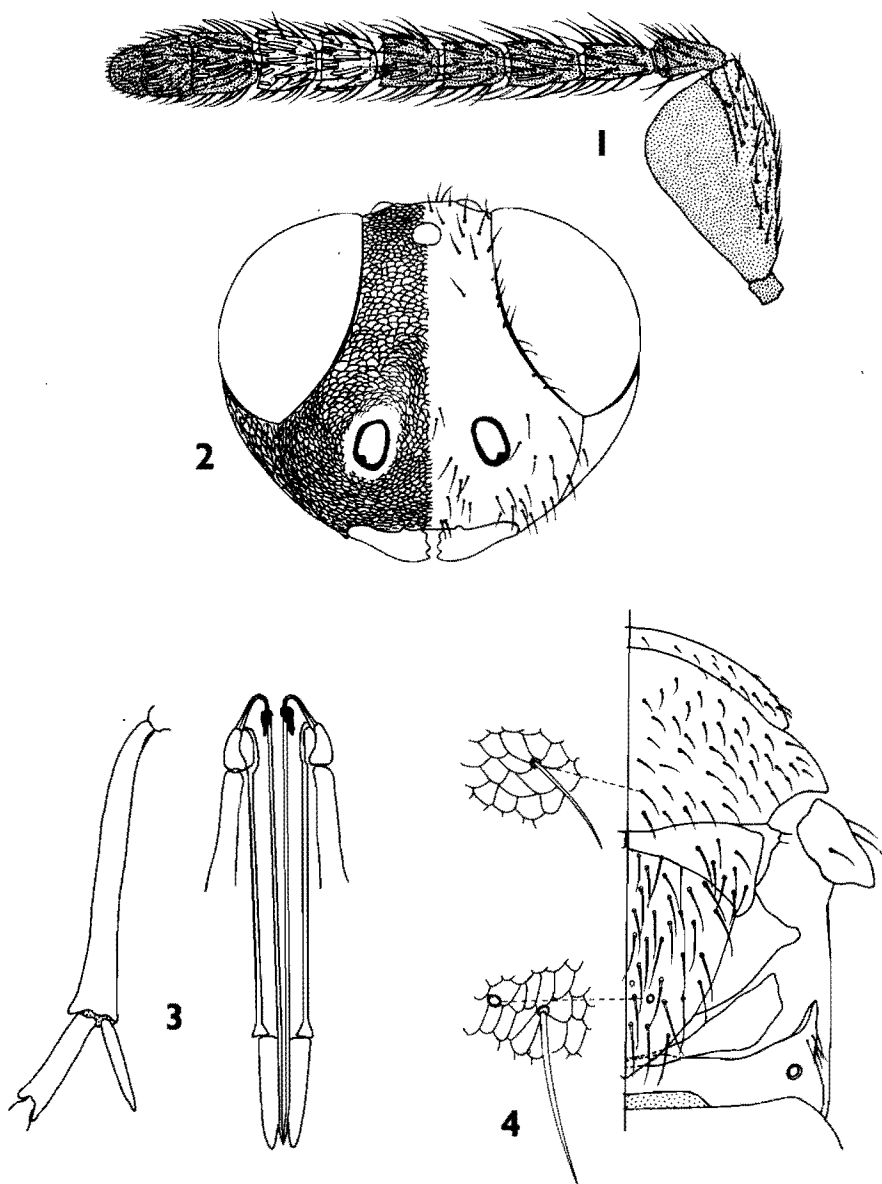
Compere (1928) described a new species from South Africa, which he named *Microterys fuscipennis*. Since at that time *fuscipennis* Dalman was considered to belong to another genus, no homonymy was then involved.

Pilipjuk & Sugonjaev (1971) examined the type material of *fuscipennis* Dalman and concluded that it is a good species of the genus *Microterys*. However, they did not regard *fuscipennis* Compere as a homonym because, according to their interpretation of the original description and figures, that species should be transferred to one of the genera of the Discodini, a tribe erected by Hoffer (1954). The writers cannot concur in this transfer for reasons given below, and believe that *fuscipennis* Compere should be retained in the genus *Microterys*. This species therefore becomes a junior homonym of *Microterys fuscipennis* (Dalman). The patronym *Microterys haroldi* is therefore proposed to replace *fuscipennis* Compere, in honour of the outstanding contribution of Harold Compere to the systematics of the Encyrtidae and other parasitic Hymenoptera.

***Microterys haroldi* nom. nov. figs 1-4**

Microterys fuscipennis Compere, 1928 [*nec* Dalman, 1820 (*Encyrtus*)]: 217-8, 228-231; Annecke, 1963: 172-5; Annecke & Insley, 1971: 19; Prinsloo, 1975: 000-000.

Hoffer's (1954) key to and descriptions of the genera of the Discodini have been studied and we cannot, as mentioned above, agree with the interpretation of *haroldi* by Pilipjuk & Sugonjaev (1971).



Figs 1-4. *Microterys haroldi* nom. nov., female. 1. Right antenna, outer aspect. 2. Head, front aspect. 3. Ovipositor and middle tibia drawn to the same scale. 4. Right side of dorsum of thorax, with sculpture of mesoscutum and scutellum enlarged.

The female of *haroldi* has the fore wing maculation similar to certain species of some genera of the Discodini, such as *Paraphaenodiscus* Girault and *Discodes* Foerster, but no other characters of generic value could be found that would justify the transfer of *haroldi* to one of the discodine genera. *Microterys haroldi* does resemble to a certain extent some species of *Paraphaenodiscus* such as *bicolor* Mercet, *algiricus* Ferrière and *subterraneus* Ferrière. However, these species have been compared with *haroldi* from which they may be readily separated as follows: frontovertex broad, about one-half head width (only somewhat over one-third in *haroldi* as shown in fig. 2); ocelli in a strongly obtuse-angled triangle (ocelli in an equilateral triangle in *haroldi*); antenna with all funicle segments transverse, the basal one or two segments sometimes quadrate, the club at least as long as the distal four funicle segments together, plainly broader than the distal funicle segment [in *haroldi* (fig. 1) the basal four funicle segments are each longer than wide, the distal two only slightly wider than long, the club shorter than the distal three funicle segments together, only a trifle wider than funicle VI]. Ferrière (1956) described and illustrated the male of *subterraneus* with pedicel longer than basal funicle segment and funicle segments II–VI each wider than long. In *haroldi*, and all other *Microterys* species known to the writers, the pedicel is much shorter than the basal funicle segment and all funicle segments are plainly longer than wide.

Microterys haroldi was described from nine females collected by E. W. Rust at Durban, Natal, in 1926 from an unidentified coccid host that indents the leaves of *Chaetacme aristata* Planch. Annecke (1963) described the male from a single specimen collected together with one female from the same locality, host scale insect and host plant as were the types. This male was designated by Annecke as the metalotype. The insect host was identified and described by De Lotto (1967) as representing a new genus and species of coccids, namely *Messinea plana*.

We have examined the type specimens of *haroldi*, a dissected female on a slide which Annecke (1963) considered to be Rust's reference specimen, as well as the female determined by Annecke. Three other females are also at hand. One of these is from the same insect host, host plant and locality as the types, whereas the other two are thought to be from *Ceroplastes* species, collected on *Chaetacme aristata* not far from the type locality. Although the writers consider this species to be correctly placed in *Microterys*, it may be set aside from other *Microterys* species (see also Prinsloo, 1975) by the fore wing of the female which is strongly and uniformly infuscated from base to near apical margin, the latter narrowly hyaline, and by the weakly developed, round rim which extends widely round the posterolateral and posterior margins of the scutellum. Compere (1928: 218) stated that the marginal vein of the fore wing is comparatively long for *Microterys*. It may be noted that a few other species presently placed in *Microterys*, such as *judithae* Annecke, *rizicola* Risbec and *danzigae* Sugonjaev, have the fore wing maculation similar to that of *haroldi*.

Compere's description of the female of *haroldi* is supplemented as follows: head with sculpture of frontovertex and face as shown in fig. 2; thorax with mesonotal sculpture and setation as in fig. 4; thorax plainly shorter than gaster, the latter somewhat heart-shaped, obtusely pointed apically; ovipositor (fig. 3) long, about as long as gaster as seen through the derm in cleared slide-mounted specimens, a little more than 1.5 times as long as middle tibia, about four times as long as gonostyli; gonostyli a little longer than middle tibial spur, slender, rounded at the apices; ovipositor and gonostyli protruding shortly caudally. A key to male and female is given by Prinsloo (1975) to separate this species from other related African forms of *Microterys*.

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